



**United Methodist
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Actively Embracing Abundant Living

Leona Pewor is enjoying an abundant life full of activity, connection, and community at Collingswood, where she is proving that age is not synonymous with slowing down!

A resident of Pennsauken, New Jersey, for over 57 years, Leona moved to Collingswood in 2021, primarily as an act of love for her children, who were concerned for her after her husband passed away unexpectedly in 2016, leaving her with a beautiful but large house to maintain.

“I have three children, and they are my priority,” Leona says fondly. “I knew they worried about me because I had a lot of steps in my home. The reason I’m here is for three – Melanie, Michael and Malerie.”

Leona has always prioritized living an active lifestyle. Her favorite forms of exercise are walking, swimming, diving, body surfing, ice skating, and dancing. But that’s not all. “I’m Lithuanian, and we have polka dances,” she shares. “I was very good at jitterbugging. I was also a very active swimmer, and I taught water aerobics. I have belonged to the Merchantville Women’s Club since 1962 and I was a singer with a group of people there and was in a lot of plays, particularly comedies. I enjoy people very much. I love communicating with them.”

Leona’s involvement in the community and with her activities over the years provided her with many friendships and fulfilling experiences that she was eager to maintain after arriving at a United Methodist community, and even now at the age of 87. Because UMC is faith-based, Leona enjoys living in a place where her own faith is celebrated and shared by many, especially because it is the most important and enriching part of her life. “My biggest strength is my faith,” she shares. She values the weekly services offered at UMC and the connections she’s made there.

Leona was not ready to give up living actively when she moved to Collingswood, and she was delighted to discover that she didn’t have to! In fact, **living at Collingswood has provided Leona with even more opportunities to do what she loves – exercise, explore, connect with others, and ultimately, expand her community and meet more people to enjoy.**

Continued on back

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"The best thing for me here is going to the gym!" she exclaims. "I do 4,000 steps in 30 minutes." She enjoys the gym so much that she visits three times a week. "The therapists there are excellent, and the gym is fabulous," she says. Leona has experienced many benefits from going to the gym regularly and has made so many connections there that she believes the routine contributes to her long life. "My long life is absolutely, positively because of that gym," she says.

In addition to remaining active, Leona has also had lots of opportunities to meet new people and form a new, flourishing community. "They made me an ambassador for people who are coming in here as new neighbors," she explains. "They said, 'Leona, knowing your personality, if you see somebody coming in, you could welcome them and say hello.' So, I go in and talk to them and tell them what we have available here and ask them to tell me something about themselves."

"I try to make people's lives a little bit better," she continues. "And the people are wonderful. I have a second family here."

Leona is living safely, socially, and actively at Collingswood. **Her children have peace of mind about her well-being and even more importantly, Leona does as well!** She thrives in a vibrant community, maintains an active, engaged, and healthy lifestyle, and has forged dozens of new friendships.

"The reason I call it abundant life is because they offer so many excursions to go on, wonderful festivals, and excellent drivers to take us wherever we want to go," Leona shares. "I think the best thing here is to be able to use your own personality and to be sharing part of me to be helping other people. That's how I feel right now. I belong here."

Our generous donors provide the means for residents like Leona to live abundant lives at United Methodist Communities. Here, there are countless opportunities for residents to grow, connect, and ultimately thrive, but we need your support to continue serving, celebrating, and empowering our seniors both now and in the years to come.

Leona is flourishing at UMC remaining active, practicing her faith, building meaningful relationships, and enjoying her growing community. Would you consider helping us ensure that seniors like Leona can continue to choose abundant living? Your partnership makes an eternal impact and invaluable investment in the lives of those that we serve.

You are the reason why, at UMC, abundant living isn't just a goal - it's a way of life.

To update your contact information, change your communication preferences, or opt out of communications, please call us at 732-731-2121 or email foundation@umcommunities.org. Thank you!



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